

Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

TIME: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: VIRTUAL - Zoom meeting

PRESENT: Sharon Oberkrieser, Lindsay Reuer, Tammy Ross, Scott Ross, Staci Thorkildsen, Kashoua Yang, Sarah Dunks, Candy Hall

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Wagner, Cristie Siebenaller, Mitch Cornils, Tracy Gehrke, Wendy Hein, LaTrice Barbee, Kirsten Tessen, Taylor VandeBerg, Anna Whitmarsh, Abby Brandt, Ciarra Zemke, Maddy Fero, Kristin Kmecheck,

Sharon Oberkrieser called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

1. **Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2022 Meeting:** Cristie Siebenaller moved for approval of the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Tracy Gehrke, and motion carried.

2. **Presentation: The Sensory Club – Neenah:**

- Tammy and Scott Ross are opening the Sensory Club of Neenah. Ribbon-cutting and partners open house will be held on Friday, March 10 and Saturday, March 11th will be a grand opening for the public.
- The Sensory Club of Neenah will serve those with sensory needs by providing sensory gym equipment along with a multi-sensory environment (MSE) room.
- Tammy is an occupational therapist and can work with individuals on sensory processing, self-regulation, and sensory gym engagement.
- Hours: 9-7 Monday through Friday; 9-5 Saturdays. No appointments are needed and members can access the equipment any time the club is open. Future special events include glow nights, canine companions, and a Christmas party. There is a private room available for members for two hours to celebrate birthdays and a staff member will assist as a party helper.
- Membership and Day Pass Fees – Therapists, community organizations, and schools can purchase either day passes or corporate memberships for access to the club at 25 percent discount (minimum 3 passes, maximum 20). School field trips are also available at a cost of \$10 per participant. Members must come with a caregiver and there is no fee charged for caregivers.
 - Single=\$49/month (\$558/year)
 - Double=\$69/month (\$828/year)
 - Family=\$89/month (\$1068/year).
- Future plans include: Self-regulation groups, sensory processing supports for home, parent/caregiver resources, and therapeutic modalities.

- Sensory Club is part of a larger franchise. Other locations are in Denver, Pewaukee and Green Bay. The Neenah Club also works with Family Care and IRIS, adult long term care programs, as all ages are accepted at the club. Winnebago County CLTS contracts with both the Neenah and Green Bay Sensory Clubs. The Neenah location is 976 American Drive, Suite 8, Neenah, Wisconsin. <https://www.thesensoryclub.com/neenah/>

3. **Member Sharing – Updates or news to share about your agency or child:**

Lindsay Reuer:

- 400 children have registered so far for the 1000 Reading Challenge which was launched in October.
- The library is seeking input including ideas for sensory programming and members can email Lindsay with ideas or input: reuer@oshkoshpubliclibrary.org.
- Quiet rooms can be booked depending on size of space needed. Study rooms on the second floor and meeting/conference rooms are available to the general public for a \$25 fee. Therapists sometimes meet with families in the general children's area of the library and depending on availability larger spaces can be available free of charge.

Mitch Cornils stated that work continues to focus on prevention by working with families in-home and utilizing community resources.

Tracy Gehrke:

- COVID clinics will be closing as the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ends. Walk-in Wednesday Clinics at Sunnyview from 3:00-6:00 PM and Wednesday mornings at the Oshkosh Public Library. Tracy reported vaccinations will continue up until the time the vaccine is no longer free to the Health Department and consists of Pfizer only.
- Support to childcare programs: Tracy continues to provide support to childcare programs including COVID related topics.
- CCRR: Tracy is also a member of the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) board along with Candy Hall. There will be a celebration on March 31st from 3-6 PM for the director who is retiring.
- Parent resource hours: continue to occur the second Thursday of the month at the Oshkosh location and the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Neenah location. Services include car seat installation (by appointment), growth and development questions, and vaccinations clinics for families with no insurance or BadgerCare.
- Back-to-School Fair is gearing up for the first meeting tomorrow. This event is typically held in August at Oshkosh North.

Staci Thorkildsen of Headstart stated they are currently working on recruitment of families with posters, brochures, and in-person at the food pantry and WIC. Staci can be emailed events where they can set up a table: thorkildsens@uwosh.edu.

Candy Hall from CCR&R in Kimberly will be the incoming executive director starting Tuesday. They are working on how to support childcare providers and expand access to care. The survey they conducted found around 800 children are on waiting lists in Winnebago County so they are working with the Dream Up Grant right to see what can be done. They work with the Child Abuse and

Neglect Prevention Board and have received a grant to create "Parenting on the Go" bags containing a book, snack container, and one to three activities based on child's age. Contact Candy if you have an upcoming event where the bags could be distributed. The plan is to distribute around 150 bags at local events.

Kashoua Yang is the Program Administrator for the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program out of the Northeast Regional Center in Neenah which serves 17 counties by providing free information and referral sources to families of children with special healthcare needs. For providers and service professionals, the center provides capacity building to encourage the coordination of care and services. The Medical Home and Youth Health Transition initiatives drive their everyday work and a series of family workshops and presentations related to the initiatives can be provided free of charge. With the Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwind, there has been an increase in calls from families seeking information on local food pantries who anticipate a decrease in Foodshare benefits. Kashoua can be reached at: Kyang2@childrenswi.org.
<https://www.northeastregionalcenter.org/>

Elizabeth Wagner shared the following updates:

- Introductions of new staff – Elizabeth welcomed new staff in attendance at the meeting – Kristin Kmecheck, Taylor VandeBerg (intern), LaTrice Barbee, Ciarra Zemke, and Abby Brandt.
- 2023 Wisconsin Autism Conference – April 20-22, 2023 at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay – CLTS can fund for families to attend. Website: <https://www.autismgreaterwi.org/2023-annual-conference/>.
- Chatter Matters Camp – June 15 – 18, 2023 is being offered through UW-Wisconsin Whitewater for children ages 5-15 who use assistive communication devices and their families. Website: <https://www.uww.edu/ce/camps/additional/chatter>.
- Youth Transition Conference – Stepping into Adulthood – May 2, 2023 through CESA 6 at UW-Oshkosh. Website: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOVpY2tc94vClfYxSUS1rAgOU_1S5o51uPO0m_v7_B1JBV7gQ/viewform.
- PHE COVID Unwind information – information on updated benefits for BadgerCare – <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-medicaid.htm> and FoodShare – <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/news.htm>.
- Circles of Life Annual Conference – for children with disabilities and their supports – May 11-12 at Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Website: <https://www.circlesoflifeconference.com/>.
- Love the Mess Support Group – meets First and Third Tuesdays of the month from 6-7 PM in Oshkosh. Upcoming Lego Day will be held February 18th from 10-12. Website: <https://gooshkoshkids.com/love-the-mess-parenting-group/>.
- WI Facets – website contains on demand training webinar recordings in English and Spanish. There are also trainings and resources for those interested in advocacy training. Training Calendar website: <https://wifacets.org/training/calendar/>.
- Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council will be serving Winnebago County as a resource for fair housing (including renters). Statewide toll-free complaint intake line: 1-877-647-3247. Website: <https://www.fairhousingwisconsin.com/about-us>.

4. Children's COP and CLTS Program Updates – Elizabeth Wagner:

- **Service and Program Updates:**
 - **Staff updates** include filling the positions of an additional supervisor, service coordination staff, intern, and a new financial support staff being added to the team. Service Coordinator positions continue to be added through the contract with Lutheran Social Services to meet demand of referrals. An LTE was used during a recent staff member's maternity leave and an intern will be used this coming semester to support the team and families.
 - **New Providers & Services:** There are a number of new contracted providers and services including the Sensory Club of Neenah, Innovative Growth offering exercise support for children with sensory issues, Intentions Behavior out of Green Bay offering parent support services and resource, Grove offering ABA and respite services, and Fox Valley Autism Program offering a new social skills class for children ages 5-8.
 - **Parental Fee Changes:** CLTS families received letters in January regarding changes the State made to parental fees. Parental fees will be charged the year after services have occurred to ensure families are charged for only services received. Estimated fees will still be calculated based on authorized services in order to give families an idea of what their fee will likely be. Service coordinators will be communicating with families throughout the year regarding this transition.
 - **MetaStar Review / Audit:** The CLTS Program annual review by Metastar will occur in March and Birth-to-Three will be later in the year.
- **Waitlist Updates:** There are currently 36 youth on the waitlist. 31 referrals have been received since the start of 2023. 580 youth are currently being served. There is an average deferment into the program of 90 days.
- **Operations during COVID-19:** The official COVID unwinding has begun and several state calls are scheduled regarding various operations that will revert to the process prior to COVID and some will remain in place long-term. Completing functional screens at annual recerts via a face to face home visit will resume in June and families that staff have been unable to locate may be closed.

5. Birth-to-Three – Wendy Hein:

- **Grants for Childcare and Mental Health Services:** The Department of Children and Family (DCF) has been utilizing ARPA grants to expand eligibility criteria for childcare and mental health consultation services to any child within the B-3 Program. However, there is a lack of childcare slots available.
- **COVID Recovery Grant:** Grant monies are being utilized to offer parent cafes to B-3 families which include providing childcare and a meal. The first series of cafes held in Appleton received very positive feedback. The next series of three cafes will take place at the Downtown Oshkosh Y on February 21, March 7, and March 21.
- **Staffing:** Recruitment is occurring for an occupational therapist and an intake service coordinator.
- **Fox Cities United Way:** The application for funding has just been completed which included statistical data that 216 children were enrolled and received ongoing services in 2022. In addition, parent education and home programming is being provided to children who are not enrolled. There were 1,139 referrals received in 2022.
- **Annual Survey:** Positive feedback was reported from parents as follows:

97% – increased understanding of their child's abilities and needs
98% – learned new strategies to help promote child's development
92% – increased awareness of other community service programs and supports
91% – felt encouraged to be an advocate for their child

- Federal Government – Office of Special Programs requires rating children upon program entry and exit. Child outcomes showed 63 percent of children participating in the program substantially increased their rate of developmental trajectory. 32 percent of children functioned within age expectations upon program exit.

6. CCS/CST Youth Services – Cristie Siebenaller:

- Caseloads: Cristie reported that full caseloads continue.
- Staffing Update: Tom Matczynski is retiring on March 9th and there are currently two therapy positions open.
- Advisory Committee: Work is occurring to create an advisory committee to join youth and adult programming on the county level.

7. 2023 Focus Areas and Committee Role:

Gaps in Behavioral Services Committee in the Fox Valley: ABA members have been providing information at the meeting on the limitations with insurance and long waiting lists for ABA services. The CLTS program has been able to fund more services that can fill some of the gaps. Work is occurring on a resource list which hopefully will be available at the May meeting. The No Wrong Door initiative and other new statewide initiatives are starting that allow families access to connecting to more resources. The next Gap Committee meeting is February 2nd at 9:00 AM. Anyone can reach out to Elizabeth Wagner if interested in joining.

8. 2023 Meeting Dates: 12:30 on May 9, September 12, December 12.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Wagner